

Message Text

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, FR
SUBJECT: GOF PLUGS NEW ENERGIES

1. IN AN OFFICIAL REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT, INDUSTRY
AND COMMERCE MINISTER RENE MONORY EXPRESSED SATISFAC-
TION WITH GOF PROGRESS WITH NEW ENERGIES AND ANNOUNCED
THE GOAL OF ATTAINING ONE PERCENT OF FRANCE'S TOTAL
ENERGY FROM GEOTHERMAL AND SOLAR ENERGY IN 1985.
RESULTS SO FAR INCLUDE 12,000 HOUSING UNITS AT LEAST
PARTIALLY HEATED BY GEOTHERMAL AND 64 DEMONSTRATION

PLANTS FOR SOLAR ENERGY SPACE HEATING. THEY WILL ALLOW
NEW GROUND TO BE BROKEN. FOR THIS REASON FINANCIAL
EFFORT IN FAVOR OF THESE ENERGIES WILL BE INCREASED
OVERALL BY 62 PERCENT IN 1978 OVER 1977, A FIGURE WHICH
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IS FOUR TIMES AS GREAT AS THAT FOR 1975.

2. IT WAS ESTIMATED THAT THE TOTAL FINANCING, EITHER
DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM THE STATE, WILL BE 406
MILLION FRANCS NEXT YEAR: 266 FOR SOLAR AND THE REST
FOR GEOTHERMAL. ALTHOUGH THE 1978 FIGURES ARE NOT YET
FIRM; THIS YEAR THAT TOTAL IS 296 MILLION FRANCS, 128

FOR GEOTHERMAL AND 163 FOR SOLAR. ANOTHER ANNOUNCED CHANGE WILL BE THAT PRIVATE PEOPLE WISHING TO USE SOLAR ENERGY WILL GET GREATER GOVERNMENT SUPPORT THAN IN THE PAST.

3. IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT A MAJOR EFFORT IS TO BE UNDERTAKEN TOWARDS BRINGING SOLAR THERMODYNAMIC AND VOLTAIC ENERGY PLANTS TO AN INDUSTRIAL SCALE. FOR THIS PURPOSE THE BUDGET WILL BE RAISED BY 40 PERCENT.

THIS WILL MAKE POSSIBLE AMONG OTHER THINGS THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST EXPERIMENTAL SOLAR PLANT OF A CAPACITY OF TWO MEGAWATTS ELECTRIC.

4. COMMENT: A. THE CAPITAL COST OF SOLAR ENERGY IS STILL A GOOD DEAL HIGHER THAN MORE CONVENTIONAL FORMS OF ENERGY. FRENCH EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD REMAIN FOCUSED ON EXPORT MARKETS.

B. THESE FIGURES FOR SOLAR AND GEOTHERMAL ENERGY RESEARCH ARE IN GREAT CONTRAST WITH THE MAIN PORTION OF THE GOF RESEARCH BUDGET WHICH OVER THE LAST 2-3 YEARS HAS BARELY KEPT PACE WITH INFLATION.

C. FOR ADDITIONAL PROGRAM DETAILS, SEE PARIS 24866, WHICH WAS BASED ON MEETING WITH DELEGGUE AUX ENERGIES NOUVELLES COLLI ON AUGUST 24. THE TOTAL BUDGET FIGURE OF 406 MILLION FRANCS ANNOUNCED AT THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIME BY MR. MONORY IS ABOUT ONE PERCENT HIGHER THAN THE FIGURE GIVEN BY MR. COLLI ON AUGUST 24. HOWEVER,

IT APPEARS THAT SINCE THEN A LARGER PORTION OF THE BUDGET HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO SOLAR ENERGY AT THE EXPENSE OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY.
HARTMAN

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